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PCT Application
PCT/JP2003/007791

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference NSK2599PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/JP2003/007791	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 June 2003 (19.06.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 19 June 2002 (19.06.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B62D 1/19, B60R 21/05, B62D 5/04		
Applicant NSK LTD.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 25 August 2003 (25.08.2003)	Date of completion of this report 10 December 2003 (10.12.2003)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP20007791

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19

, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheets/fig. _____5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP 03 12791

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	2, 3, 5	YES
	Claims	1, 4	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-5	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Claims 1 and 4 lack novelty in the light of document 1 (JP 2001-208089 A (NSK Ltd.), 3 August 2001, paragraphs [0015]-[0019], & WO 98/55610 A, & GB 2363182 A) or document 2 (JP 10-045006 A (Yamada Seisakusho Co., Ltd.), 17 February 1998, paragraphs [0008]-[0015], & GB 2316150 A, & US 6223619 A).

Documents 1 and 2 disclose shock-absorbing steering column devices for use in vehicles, said devices being equipped with low-friction members the same as those provided in the present invention.

Claims 2 and 3 do not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 or 2, and document 3 (JP 2000-127991 A (NSK Ltd.), 9 May 2000, paragraphs [0006] and [0015], fig. 2, & GB 2343157 A, & US 6345842 A).

Document 3 discloses a column-assist-type electrically powered power steering device which is equipped with a shock-absorbing function and the position of which can be adjusted, and the application of this feature to the low-friction members disclosed in documents 1 and 2 would not present any particular difficulty.

Further, a telescopic adjusting function as a position-adjusting function is a conventional feature so well-known as to not even require listing of documents.

Claim 5 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 to 3, and document 4 (JP 2001-221245 A (Koyo Seiko Co., Ltd.), 17 August 2001, paragraph [0019], (Family: none)).

Document 4 lists fluorine resin as an example of a low-friction material treatment, and moreover, the determination as to what kind of known low-friction material shall be applied is a feature fittingly determined at the discretion of a person skilled in the art.